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Biotechnology Varieties

The use of biotechnology varieties for corn increased in Michigan for the second straight year, according to Jay Johnson, Director of the USDA, NASS, Great Lakes Regional Office. Biotechnology varieties accounted for 93 percent of the corn acres planted in Michigan, up from 90 percent last year. Soybean plantings included 91 percent biotechnology varieties, up 1 percent from last year.

Nationally, biotechnology varieties of corn totaled 93 percent of the acres planted, up 3 percent from 2013. Soybeans acreage planted to biotech varieties was up 1 percent at 94 percent.

The following table is based on responses from the June Agricultural Survey. Farmers were asked if they planted corn or soybeans that, through biotechnology, are resistant to herbicides, insects, or both. Conventionally bred herbicide resistant varieties are excluded. Insect resistant varieties include only those containing *bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). The Bt varieties include those that contain more than one gene that can resist different types of insects. Stacked gene varieties include only those containing biotech traits for both herbicide and insect resistance.

Biotechnology varieties: Percent of acres planted

Commodity	Michigan		United States	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(Percent)	*(Percent)*	*(Percent)*	*(Percent)*
Corn				
Insect resistant (Bt)	4	2	5	4
Herbicide resistant	15	15	14	13
Stacked gene varieties	71	76	71	76
All biotech varieties	90	93	90	93
Soybeans				
Herbicide resistant	90	91	93	94

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